

We need to stop expecting someone else to do the tough jobs for us and start doing them ourselves.

These SEALs are heroes, plain and simple and the debt we owe them, I fear we will never truly be able to repay them. God bless these SEALs, God Bless the men and women who protect this nation each and every day and God Bless America.

And that is just the way it is.

#### IN MEMORY OF RICHARD ROGGE

#### HON. ELTON GALLEGLY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in memory of Richard Rogge, a G-man's G-man, an FBI supervisor on the John F. Kennedy assassination, a man of integrity who stood up to years of accusations from conspiracy theorists, and longtime friend to my wife, Janice, and me.

Richard, who died last week at age 82, worked for the Federal Bureau of Investigation for 30 years. He was serving in the Criminal Division at FBI headquarters on November 25, 1963, when FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover summoned him and told him to fly to Dallas to supervise the investigation into President John F. Kennedy's assassination.

For the next 10 months, Richard and his fellow G-men worked 16-hour days following every lead and theory and disproving many that later became fodder for the conspiracists. After an exhaustive investigation, Richard and his team determined that a lone gunman seeking personal fame fired the shots that felled a president. He never wavered from that conviction.

Richard returned to Washington, DC, and later served as assistant special agent in charge in Los Angeles, an inspector in Washington, DC, and special agent in charge in Honolulu, Hawaii, Richmond, Virginia, and Buffalo, New York.

Richard and his family moved to Southern California upon his retirement from the FBI in 1977.

Prior to joining the FBI, Richard joined the Marine Corps. He was 17 at the time and served in World War II's Pacific Theater. Among the battles he fought was the invasion of Iwo Jima.

He was attending New York University studying law when he joined the FBI. Studying at night, he switched majors and graduated college with a degree in business.

Madam Speaker, Richard Rogge was an FBI agent at a time when only shoe leather, brain power, grit and determination solved crimes, before the investigative techniques and technology we now take for granted were developed. He was a man of integrity and passion and served his country with honor. Barbara, his wife of 47 years, died in 1995, but I know my colleagues will join Janice and me in offering our condolences to their children, Veronica, Richard Jr., Christopher and Meredith, to their family, and to all who called Richard a friend.

Godspeed, Richard.

#### CONGRATULATING MILDRED "MIDGE" SLATER

#### HON. BRUCE L. BRALEY

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2009*

Mr. BRALEY of Iowa. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate my good friend Mildred "Midge" Slater on her recent retirement as a Representative for the Communications Workers of America (CWA). Midge has spent the last 30 plus years in the social justice and labor movements. After spending time in the Pittsburgh and upstate New York areas, Midge settled in Iowa and forged a commitment to fighting for civil rights, women's rights and worker's rights.

Midge became active in the CWA, serving in many capacities including Chief Steward, Vice President and President. She went on to serve many years as a CWA International Representative fostering and mentoring many into the fight for social and economic justice while forming strong bonds with those she came to know.

I'm happy to report that despite being retired she still remains active in CWA as she continues to go to the Iowa Capital advocating for others. She has also taken on the task of organizing other retirees to continue to advocate for others.

Midge continues to be active on her church board and serves on many other boards across the state, including the Iowa Federation of Labor, the AFL-CIO and the Iowa Citizens Action Network. I congratulate her on all of her success and wish her the best in all of her future endeavors.

#### STATE AND LOCAL PREDATORY TOWING ENFORCEMENT ACT

#### HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2009*

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Madam Speaker, since the mid-1990's the authority to regulate the towing industry had been in limbo. Through a provision slipped into the Federal Aviation Administration Act of 1994 that defined the tow truck industry as an interstate carrier, state and local regulatory authority of tow truck operations has been preempted. One year later, passage of the Interstate Commerce Termination Act struck down the federal regulatory body that oversaw the towing industry.

With no federal regulator and confusing restrictions and conflicting court rulings on what states and localities are permitted to regulate, no level of government has been able to adequately regulate the towing industry. This lack of regulatory authority has led to more than a decade of major consumer abuses by some unscrupulous towing companies across the country. These bad actors have continued to taint an otherwise much needed and respectable profession.

Complaints about exorbitant towing fees and abusive operators grew so bad that in 2005, Congress agreed, through an amendment to the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act—a Legacy of Users

(SAFETEA-LU), to allow some limited state regulation in the area on non-consensual towing. The amendment also directed the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study to identify additional means to protect the rights of individuals whose vehicles are towed.

That study offers some recommendations that track with conclusions I made several years ago, that consumers and tow truck operators would be better served by removing the last vestiges of federal preemption. It notes that consumers needing redress for overcharges today or other unfair treatment would no longer be in the Catch-22 position of having their State case thrown out on preemption grounds only to find that they may have no real recourse at the Federal level either. Since business practices vary from place to place, it may also be more practical to have non-consensual towing regulated by the States rather than by the Federal Government.

States are the more logical place to regulate towing. They already have an established body of law in place to do so. This legislation I am introducing today will bring those laws back into effect.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF MICHAEL STERN

#### HON. JOHN P. MURTHA

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2009*

Mr. MURTHA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of philanthropist Michael Stern and to pay tribute to his life of helping others and supporting our military families.

Michael Stern began his career as a journalist, writing for newspapers and magazines before joining the U.S. Army in 1943 as a war correspondent. He traveled with American forces through Sicily and southern Italy; entering Rome a day before the Allies took control in June of 1944. He remained in Italy for the next 50 years, continuing to write articles, publishing a book, and producing several Italian-made films.

Through his friendship with developer Zachary Fisher, the two men started the Intrepid Museum Foundation in 1978. The USS Intrepid (CVS-11), a World War II aircraft carrier in the Pacific Theater, was decommissioned in 1974 and planned to be scrapped. Stern and Fisher led a fundraising campaign to save the carrier, and in 1982 the Intrepid Sea, Air, and Space Museum opened to the public. It became a National Historic Landmark four years later.

In the early 1990s, the men established the Fisher House program to provide our service members and their families with temporary lodging at military bases and VA medical facilities all across the United States. This unique private-public partnership enables families to stay together while undergoing long-term medical treatment from injury or illness. Over 10,000 military families are guests at a Fisher House every year, and their expenses are taken care of by the Foundation.

Stern and Fisher also created the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research Foundation at Rockefeller University, where Stern served as President and CEO of the Board of Trustees. Since 1995, the Foundation has been on